

Western Kentucky University news for the Council on Postsecondary Education, April 2014

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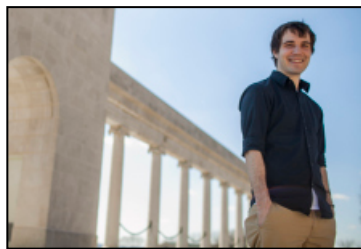
Four WKU students have been recognized by the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program. From left: John Andrew Cliburn of Cloverport, Nitin Krishna of Corbin, Megan Laffoon of Louisville and Gretchen Walch of Alexandria.

All 4 WKU nominees recognized by Goldwater Scholarship Program

All four WKU students nominated for the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program were honored by the premier award for undergraduates pursuing careers in science, mathematics or engineering.

John Andrew Cliburn of Cloverport, Nitin Krishna of Corbin and Megan Laffoon of Louisville were selected as Goldwater recipients. Gretchen Walch of Alexandria received an honorable mention. Cliburn, Krishna and Walch are all sophomores and students in the Gatton Academy for Mathematics and Science in Kentucky at WKU. Laffoon will graduate in 2016 and is a student in the Honors College at WKU and the Chinese Flagship Program. All plan to enter PhD programs. <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2014/04/02/goldwater-2014/>

WKU student will use 2 national scholarships for HIV research in United Kingdom



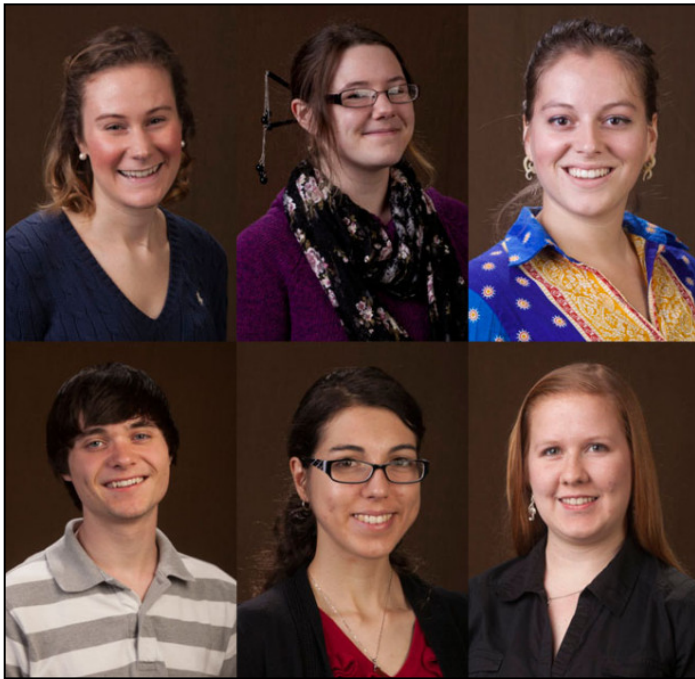
Charles "Chad" Coomer

Charles "Chad" Coomer, a WKU student from Louisville, will use two prestigious national scholarships to study and conduct HIV research in the United Kingdom. Coomer, a biology and chemistry major and student in the Honors College at WKU, has received a U.S. Student Fulbright Grant to the UK to complete his master's degree in infection and immunity at University College London. He has also been accepted into the National Institutes of Health Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program, which will allow him to pursue a doctorate in virology at the University of Oxford while conducting HIV research at Oxford and the NIH.

Through the Fulbright grant, Coomer will pursue research to identify gene sites that inhibit HIV infection in immune cells. He will work within the Medical Research Council Centre for Medical Molecular Virology, hosted by the Division of Infection of Immunity at UCL.

Through the NIH Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program, Coomer will study at the Dunn School of Pathology, a world leader in research focused on HIV interactions with the human immune system, HIV latent, long-lived reservoirs and their mechanisms of developing persistence.

He said pursuing his doctorate of philosophy at Oxford will provide him "with the necessary tools to achieve my goal of developing curative strategies for HIV infection and will facilitate professional connections that I will draw on in my career as a physician-scientist in support of a world-wide effort to combat HIV infection." <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2014/03/31/osd-coomer/>



A record six WKU students have received U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarships. Top row (from left): Elizabeth R. Gribbins, Kelli N. Hogue and Bailey E. Mack; bottom row (from left): Tyler Prochazka, Sarah Schrader and Kelly E. Tursic.

Record 6 WKU students awarded Critical Language Scholarships

A record six students at WKU have been awarded U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarships.

Elizabeth R. Gribbins of Louisville; Kelli N. Hogue of Burlington; Bailey E. Mack of Louisville; Tyler Prochazka of Newton, Kan.; Sarah Schrader of Bowling Green and Kelly E. Tursic of Union will use the scholarships to study languages this summer in various locations. Joanna Chang of Owensboro was selected as an alternate.

The scholarship includes round-trip airfare, living expenses and tuition for programs throughout the world in which students intensively study a critical-need foreign language and experience the culture first-hand.

Gribbins, a French major, will study Arabic. She is a student in the WKU Honors College and spent four months in 2013 studying Arabic and Middle Eastern politics at Moulay Ismail University in Morocco.

Hogue, an international affairs and

Asian religions and cultures major, will study Chinese. She is a student in the WKU Honors College and the Chinese Flagship program and has been studying Chinese since she was a freshman in high school.

Mack, an international affairs and Spanish major, will study Chinese. She is a student in the Honors College at WKU and the Chinese Flagship program. She said she became interested in the Flagship program in her desire to learn a third language.

Prochazka, an international affairs and Asian religions and cultures major, will study Chinese. He is a student in the Honors College at WKU and the Chinese Flagship program, a member of WKU Forensics Team and editor of the Chinese Newspaper on campus.

Schrader, a biology and chemistry major, will study Korean. She is a student in the WKU Honors College and Chinese Flagship Program. She spent six months in 2012 in South Korea teaching English through the Teach and Learn in Korea program and has made four trips to China through the Flagship Program.

Tursic, an international affairs and Asian religions and cultures major, will study Chinese. She is a student in the Honors College and Chinese Flagship Program. <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2014/03/17/cls-2014/>

WKU meteorology major awarded internship with NASA program

Victoria Hampton of Metcalfe County, a junior meteorology major in WKU's Department of Geography and Geology, has been awarded a paid summer internship with the 2014 NASA Student Airborne Research Program (SARP 2014). Hampton was one of 32 undergraduate students selected from universities across the country to participate in SARP. <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2014/03/24/hampton-nasa-2014/>

WKU wins Hearst photojournalism title for 21st time in 25 years

WKU's School of Journalism & Broadcasting has won the Hearst Journalism Awards Program's Intercollegiate Photojournalism Competition for the 21st time in the past 25 years. WKU also is in first place in the Hearst program's Intercollegiate Multimedia Competition after three of four contests. WKU has won the multimedia title for the past two years.

Three WKU photojournalism students placed in the top five in the latest photojournalism and multimedia contests. In the Picture Story/Series Photojournalism Competition, Danny Guy of Minneapolis, Minn., finished second and received a \$2,000 award, while Brittany Greeson of Owensboro finished fourth and received a \$1,000 award. In the Multimedia Enterprise Competition, Justin Philalack of Chapmansboro, Tenn., finished third and received a \$1,500 award. <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2014/03/28/hearst-photo-2014/>